

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

DEFINITION: Under general direction, performs professional work of unusual difficulty in providing rehabilitative and developmental therapy and support services requiring independent decision making and judgment; provides professional leadership and expertise in the determination of appropriate therapeutic approaches and methods; develops treatment plans; serves as member of interdisciplinary core team in accordance with program protocol and federal and state regulations and guidelines; performs related work as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: This list is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by incumbents of this class.

TASKS:

Develops and/or adjusts treatment plans for client based on knowledge of client's situation gained from interviews and case information; conducts therapy in accordance with treatment plans and specific methodologies and techniques; chooses treatment modalities for client's ability to produce pre-determined goals such as muscles strength and coordination, sensory motor integration and/or increased awareness of and ability to cope with client's surroundings; provides early intervention therapy services to infants and toddlers who have, or are at the risk of having, developmental delays, and their families.

Attends and participates in discussions and problem solving processes; designs and constructs adaptive, assistive and supportive equipment for use by client to improve motor functioning, strength and support muscles, or prevent malfunctions or deformity; confers with staff members, specialists, consultants and members of treatment team to discuss client care, treatment or case administration; maintains appropriate clinical and administrative records regarding diagnosis, treatment and summary of client's progress.

Conducts and participates in in-service training and staff development programs; performs public awareness and informational activities; confers with other practitioners and technical experts in field of specialization in order to broaden knowledge, acquire specific information or obtain advice or consultation; prepares required reports; performs special assignments and projects as required.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:

Knowledge of the principles and practices of occupational therapy.

Knowledge of anatomy, physiology and/or kinesiology.

Knowledge of occupational therapy services, facilities and equipment.

Knowledge of a range of therapy methods and techniques.

Skill in preparing and maintaining client records.

Skill in establishing and maintaining confidential records.

Skill in developing and implementing therapeutic techniques.

Ability to observe, assess and record symptoms, reactions and progress.

Ability to explain and demonstrate techniques of the profession to staff, clients, primary caregivers and others.

Ability to effectively communicate medical information, test results, diagnoses and/or proposed treatment.

Ability to assess individual client needs.

Ability to use independent judgment and to manage and impart confidential information.

Ability to fabricate and fit a range of adaptive devices for individual clients and to instruct in the use and maintenance.

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Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others.
Ability to communicate verbally and in writing.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT: Work involves a minimal physical effort in an office setting; interacts with clients to provide therapy.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A Master's degree in Occupational Therapy or related field; and six (6) years of professional occupational therapy experience; or a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy or related field; and seven (7) years of professional occupational therapy experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must possess an Occupational Therapy license in assigned state and a valid state driver's license. Within 90 days of employment must obtain a Navajo Nation Vehicle Operator's Permit.

Depending upon the needs of the Nation, some incumbents of the class may be required to demonstrate fluency in both the Navajo and English languages as a condition of employment.